

MORNING WORSHIP

September 17, 2017

10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude: "Partita on 'Beautiful Savior'"

Lau

Welcome and Announcements

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

Silent Prayer and Preparation

* Call to Worship: based on Isaiah 40:3

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

As we worship today, let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.

Let us worship God.

* Hymn: PH 96, vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

"Sing to the LORD, Sing His Praise"

WESLEY

* God's Greeting:

Grace and peace be to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be God,

And blessed is his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

* Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, by the power of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may share the divine life of Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* Response: PH 96, v. 4

"Sing to the LORD, Sing His Praise"

WESLEY

Give unto God Most High glory and honor;

come with your offerings and humbly draw near.

Worship the LORD in all beauty and splendor;

tremble before him with godly fear.

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Call to Confession:

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 2

God's Will for Our Lives:

Matthew 22:37–40

Prayer of Confession:

There are many times we think we love you well, O God. But upon hearing your call to love you with all our heart, and all our mind, and all our strength, we confess that our love for you is a diluted love, made insipid and flat by lesser loyalties and a divided heart. Our love seems pure only for brief moments; soon our affections are drawn away. How easily our devotion dies. Forgive us; in deep mercy spare us, despite our lost first love for you; in grace rekindle our love for you in seeing anew Jesus' love for us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 3

PH 863

Response: PH 32, vv. 1–3

“How Blest Are They Whose Trespass”

RUTHERFORD

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

* Hymn: Bulletin p. 3

“Ancient Words”

ANCIENT WORDS

Scripture Reading:

Mark 1: 1–8 (p. 990)

Sermon: *The Very Beginning of the Story*

Prayer

* Hymn: PH 329

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

STUTTGART

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

* Offertory Prayer

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: “Brother James’ Air”

Jordan

* Confession of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed (inside front cover of the Psalter Hymnal)

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

* Benediction:

Numbers 6:24–26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.
Amen.

* Doxology: PH 627

“Bless His Holy Name”

BLESS THE LORD

* Postlude: “Postlude”

Cooke